

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Bernd SCHULTHEIS
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Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCING A HOLDING
ELEMENT

Serial No.: 10/502,262

Based Upon: PCT/EP02/14702

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Customer No.: 42419

FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Rule 1.56 and MPEP Section 2001.06(a), Reference AA and References AL, AO-AP (Sheet 1 of 1) listed on Form PTO-1449, are cited in the International Search Report for corresponding International Application PCT/EP02/14702 and are brought to the attention of the Examiner as possibly material to examination of this U.S. Patent Application.

Serial No.: 10/502,262

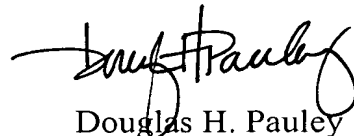
U.S. Patent 6,361,858 corresponds to Reference AL. U.S. Patent 6,410,891 corresponds to Reference AO.

References AL-AN listed on Form PTO-1449 are cited and discussed on Pages 2 and 3 of the Substitute Specification.

Applicants received a copy of Form PCT/DO/EO/905 and note that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has received and thus the National Stage file contains a copy of the International Search Report. Applicants understand that pursuant to MPEP 1893.03(g), the Examiner will consider the references cited in the International Search Report, without any further action by Applicants under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

Form PTO-1449 is enclosed with a copy of each and every non-U.S. Patent reference cited on Form PTO-1449.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO-1449
(MODIFIED)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

VO-683

SERIAL NO.

10/502,262

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT(S)

Bernd SCHULTHEIS et al.

FILING DATE

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|----|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | AA | 4,999,147 | 03/1991 | Kojima et al. | | | |
| | AB | 6,361,858 | 03/2002 | Stedron et al. | | | |
| | AC | 6,410,891 | 06/2002 | Muskalla et al. | | | |
| | AD | | | | | | |
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| | AJ | | | | | | |
| | AK | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
|--|----|-----------------|---------|------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | AL | 197 03 543 A1 | 08/1998 | Germany | | | | |
| | AM | 196 15 371 A1 | 10/1997 | Germany | | | | |
| | AN | 0 890 796 B1 | 01/2004 | EPO | | | | |
| | AO | 199 10 467 C1 | 10/2000 | Germany | | | | |
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OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| | AS | | |
| | AT | | |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

USCOMM-DC 80-3985

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